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Economic and environmental questions:
International Strategy for Disaster Reduction

Islamic Republic of Iran* and Mexico: draft resolution

International Strategy for Disaster Reduction

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 44/236 of 22 December 1989, 49/22 A of 2 December 1994, 49/22 B of 20 December 1994, 53/185 of 15 December 1998 and 54/219 of 3 February 2000, and reiterating its resolution 1999/63 of 30 July 1999, entitled "International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction: successor arrangements",

Also recalling the forward-looking platform for international concerted disaster reduction as developed by the World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction and as expressed in the Yokohama Strategy for a Safer World: Guidelines for Natural Disaster Prevention, Preparedness

* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

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and Mitigation and its Plan of Action,[1] as well as the Geneva mandate on disaster reduction and the strategy document entitled "A safer world in the twenty-first century: risk and disaster reduction",[2]

Reiterating the multisectoral, interdisciplinary and interrelated character of natural disaster reduction, involving measures designed to avoid or limit the adverse impacts of natural disasters, and insisting that continued interaction, cooperation and association among interested institutions are essential for the achievement of the objectives and priorities jointly agreed,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General,[3] as well as the conclusions and recommendations contained therein,

Having also considered the current institutional arrangements as established by the General Assembly in its resolution 54/219, with the Inter-Agency Task Force on Disaster Reduction and the inter-agency secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, and taking into account the assessment after the first period of operations,

Recognizing the importance of disaster reduction as an important element of sustainable development, in the preparatory process of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, to be held in Johannesburg in 2002,

Reiterating that natural disasters damage the social and economic infrastructure of all countries, although the long-term consequences of natural disasters are especially severe for developing countries and hamper their sustainable development,

Taking note of the Plan of Action for Least Developed Countries, adopted in Brussels in May 2001,

Recognizing that disaster reduction should be regarded as an important function of the United Nations and continue to receive attention,

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[1] A/CONF.172/9, chap. I, annex I.

[2] Adopted by the programme forum on the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, held at Geneva from 5 to 9 July 1999.

[3] A/56/68-E/2001/63.

Stressing the need for the international community to demonstrate the firm political determination required to utilize scientific and technical knowledge to reduce the vulnerability to natural disasters and environmental hazards, taking into account the particular needs of developing countries,

1. *Expresses* deep concern at the increasing number and scale of natural disasters, which have resulted in massive losses of life and long-term negative social, economic and environmental consequences for vulnerable societies worldwide, in particular in developing countries;

2. *Endorses* the proposal of the Secretary-General, within the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction programme, to launch a review of the implementation of the Yokohama Strategy for a Safer World: Guidelines for Natural Disaster Prevention, Preparedness and Mitigation and its Plan of Action;[1]

3. *Decides* that the Inter-Agency Task Force on Disaster Reduction should continue to perform the functions as indicated in the report of the Secretary-General,[3] in particular to serve as a main forum within the United Nations system for devising strategies and policies for disaster reduction and to ensure complementary action by agencies involved in disaster reduction and provide guidance to the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction secretariat;

4. *Also decides* that the Task Force should be modified in order to provide for increased participation of regional organizations as well as to ensure the continued membership of the key United Nations agencies;

5. *Recognizes* that the framework of action for the implementation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, as endorsed by the Inter-Agency Task Force on Disaster Reduction, constitutes the basic guide for the implementation of the Strategy; this framework shall be periodically reviewed, according with the evolving needs in the field of natural disasters reduction;

6. *Further stresses* that the inter-agency secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction should be consolidated to perform its mandated functions, in particular to serve as the focal point within the United Nations system for the coordination of disaster reduction and to ensure synergy between disaster reduction strategies and those in the socio-economic and humanitarian fields;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide and ensure financial and administrative facilities for the optimal functioning of the Task Force and the Strategy secretariat, under the direct authority of the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat;

8. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to strengthen the regional outreach of the Strategy secretariat in order to ensure appropriate support for national platforms for disaster reduction;

9. *Invites* Governments and relevant organizations of the United Nations system to strengthen national participation in the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, including through national multisectoral and interdisciplinary platforms, in order to achieve sustainable development goals and objectives, with the full utilization of scientific and technical knowledge;

10. *Recognizes* the urgent need to further develop and make use of existing scientific and technical knowledge to reduce vulnerability to natural disasters, and emphasizes the need for access to and the transfer of technology to developing countries in order to strengthen their capabilities to effectively tackle natural disasters;

11. *Urges* the international community to provide the Trust Fund for the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction with the necessary financial support, including improved support for the Strategy secretariat and for the Task Force and its working groups;

12. *Requests* the relevant organizations of the United Nations system to support the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction in the implementation of its goals, including by seconding technical staff to the Strategy secretariat;

13. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report on disaster reduction, as an important element of sustainable development, to the preparatory process for the World Summit on Sustainable Development, to be held in Johannesburg in 2002;

14. *Reiterates* the need to continue international cooperation to reduce the impact of the El Niño phenomenon, within the framework of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, as requested in Council resolutions 1999/46 of 28 July 1999 and 2000/33 of 28 July 2000 and General Assembly resolutions 52/200 of 18 December 1997, 53/185 of 15 December 1998, 54/220 of 22 December 1999 and 55/197 of 20 December 2000;

15. *Reaffirms* the need for strengthening an international framework for the improvement of early warning systems and disaster preparedness by developing an effective international mechanism for early warning, including the transfer of technology related to early warning to developing countries, under the auspices of the United Nations, as an integral part of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction and within its framework of action;

16. *Decides* to maintain the annual observance of the International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction on the second Wednesday of October, as an important vehicle to promote a global culture of natural disaster reduction, including prevention, mitigation and preparedness;

17. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution, under the item entitled "Environment and sustainable development".